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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/687,216	10/12/2000	Stephen Yencho	032405-018	9923

7590 06/19/2002

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

IZAGUIRRE, ISMAEL

[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

3765

DATE MAILED: 06/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/687,216	Applicant(s) S. YENCHO ET AL.
Examiner Ismael Izaguirre	Art Unit 3765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 29, 2002.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-15 and 17-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 6
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

Art Unit: 3765

DETAILED ACTION

Summary

Claims 1,8 and 14 are the independent claims under consideration in this Office Action.

Claims 2-7,9-13 and 15-19 are the dependent claims under consideration in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-15 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sakura, Jr. (4,214,587).

Sakura, Jr. teaches a one piece device for connecting vessels. Sakura, Jr. teaches the device including a one piece element 10 including a body with engaging pins for penetrating vessels and holding these to each other. Sakura, Jr. teaches a first vessel portion being attached to the device by first reducing the radial diameter of the device with a manipulating tube 20. The reduced portion is inserted into the first vessel and then into the second vessel portion and the two are penetrated by the engaging portions 12 and 13. The device is then moved to a holding phase

Art Unit: 3765

where the body is released and the device self deforms to the holding phase where the vessel portions are connected.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

PERTINENT CITATIONS

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Brown, Kaster et al., and Bolduc et al. Illustrate devices for piercing and holding vessels and connecting portions to each other.

Information Disclosure Statement

The IDS submitted on February 27, 2001 is incomplete. The form PTO 1449 is in the case, however none of the references have been located. Applicant is asked to resubmit such IDS so that the documents can be considered.

INQUIRIES

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Ismael Izaguirre located in CP2-4B18 and whose telephone number is (703) 308-0892. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

Art Unit: 3765

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.



Ismael Izaguirre
Primary Examiner
Group Art Unit 3765

II

June 16, 2002